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EXCISE

HOVEL JULIA S
79 STATE 199533

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/HR
REVIEWED BY <u>J. C. Widdell</u> DATE <u>3-10-88</u>
PORTIONS DELETED AS INDICATED
<u>Referred 2/4/85/10/10/85 B(1), ED</u>

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CORRECTED COPY - TEXT
S.O. 12065: RDS-1 7/19/99 (FLATIN, BRUCE A.) OR-M
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PINR, AF, GE, US
SUBJECT: (S) FURTHER COMMENTS [REDACTED] ABOUT
SOVIET EFFORTS TO ALTER AFGHAN REGIME
REF: KABUL 5459

B(1), ED

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY: [REDACTED]

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CERTAIN NON-PUSHTUN CABINET MINISTERS AS BEING IN SUPPORT OF
CURRENT SOVIET MACHINATIONS TO ALTER THE AFGHAN REGIME.
[REDACTED] IT MIGHT BE TOO LATE TO ACHIEVE A POLITICAL
SOLUTION TO THE PRESENT MESS IN AFGHANISTAN. END OF SUMMARY.

B(1) ED

[REDACTED]

. WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE THOUGHT PRIME MINISTER HAFIZULLAH AMIN,
HE PRIMARY TARGET OF THE SOVIET MACHINATIONS, IS AWARE
OF WHAT IS HAPPENING, [REDACTED] THAT AMIN IS
VERY ALERT TO DEVELOPMENTS, BUT PROBABLY NOT AWARE OF
EVERYTHING THAT HAS OCCURRED DURING THE PAST WEEK, WHEN
THE SOVIET EFFORT HAS MOVED INTO A MORE ACTIVE PHASE.
WHEN ASKED WHETHER AMIN WOULD ACCEPT HIS FATE QUIETLY OR
FIGHT, [REDACTED] HE DID NOT KNOW.

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5. AS MEMBERS OF THE ANTI-AMIN ALIGNMENT, [REDACTED] THE FOLLOWING MINISTERS, NOTING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FACT THAT ALL ARE NON-PUSHTUN: FINANCE MINISTER ABDUL KARIM MISAG, A HAZARA; JUSTICE MINISTER ABDUL HAKIM SHARAFI JAUIJANI, AN UZBEK; PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER DASTAGIR PANJSEIRI, A TAJIK; AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND CULTURE BAREQ-SHAFFEY, A TAJIK. (HE DID NOT MENTION OTHER NON-PUSHTUNS, LIKE MINISTER OF COMMERCE ABDUL QUDUS- GHORBANDI, A TAJIK, OR MINISTER OF MINES AND INDUSTRIES

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MOHAMMAD ISMAIL DANESH, A KIZILBASH.) [REDACTED] THAT AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE CURRENT POLITICAL PROBLEM IS THE EXCESSIVE PUSHTUNIZATION TENDENCIES OF THE CURRENT KHALCI LEADERSHIP.

7. [REDACTED] WENT ON TO COMPLAIN BITTERLY ABOUT THE RASE INCOMPETENCE OF THE KHALCI LEADERSHIP THAT INEVITABLY LED TO THE CURRENT SITUATION. AS AN EXAMPLE, HE CITED THE CONTROVERSIAL LAND REFORM PROGRAM, WHICH HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR MUCH OF THE OPPOSITION IN THIS COUNTRY.

[REDACTED] AND STATED THEIR CONVICTION THAT THE AFGHAN PEOPLE WOULD SUPPORT THEIR ACCELERATED PROGRAM. AFTER SIX MONTHS, [REDACTED] IT WAS CLEAR THAT LAND REFORM WAS A DISASTER. HE RECALLED HOW MANY LANDLESS AND "LAND-POOR" PEASANTS HAD WANTED TO REFUSE TO ACCEPT LAND BECAUSE OF RELIGIOUS SCRUPLES OR FEAR OF FUTURE RETRIBUTION BY THE DEPRIVED LANDLORDS. THE KHALCIS FORCED THEM TO ACCEPT THE LAND, THREATENING THEM WITH IMPRISONMENT IF THEY REFUSED.

[REDACTED] SEVERAL OF THESE PEASANTS LATER COMMITTED SUICIDE.

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9. THIS EMBASSY REMAINS SKEPTICAL THAT THE SOVIETS WILL BE ABLE TO BROADEN THE POLITICAL BASE OF THE AFGHAN REGIME SUFFICIENTLY TO STILL THE WIDESPREAD INSURRECTION IN AFGHANISTAN. WE FREQUENTLY HEAR RUMORS THAT THE SOVIETS ARE STILL TRYING TO BUILD A NEW REGIME AROUND FORMER ROYALIST PRIME MINISTER YUSUF, WHO WOULD PROBABLY SERVE AS A FIGUREHEAD PERSONAGE. THE LARGE NUMBERS OF AFGHANS WHO HAVE NOW BEEN INCITED TO BLOOD-FEUD ACTION ARE UNLIKELY TO BE FOOLED BY OLD WINE IN NEW BOTTLES. ANY SOLUTION INVOLVING THE REPLACEMENT OF KHALQIS BY PARHAMISTS WOULD ALSO BE A LOSER. THE LATTER ARE ALSO REGARDED BY AFGHANS AS PRO-MOSCOW ATHEISTS.

AMSTUTZ. UNQUOTE VANCE

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